

After discussion with other hunters in Montana, we would like to suggest an amendment for Kelly Flynn's HB150.

To regain hunting priveledges, first time offenders – who may have made an “honest” mistake, would be required to take an ethical Hunter Safety course. This would create better educated hunters in Montana's future.

The state offers first time driving offenders to take classes, such as AARP 55, to remove the offense from their record. This has been successful in educating drivers, correcting bad habits, and results in better drivers on our highways. This amendment would do the same thing for hunting.

As for the misuse of walkie talkies and phones for locating game, I have heard on quite a few occasions just in the last hunting season around Whites Gulch, hunters on cellphones telling other hunters where the Elk was, and texting how to sneak up on them. For instance, I can turn my walkie talkie on at 6:30am during hunting and hear where the elk are, how big the herd is, how many legal bulls are in it, and whose property they are on. I look out from my place and sure enough, here come the trucks. This is already against the law, but the current punishment is not strict enough to deter them.

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